

bold reforms carried out by the Government. He did not ask for a legislative enactment. All that was necessary was to introduce a clause in the Education Code that married boys should not be admitted in the Sirkar Secondary Schools. The Government were doing so much to elevate the depressed classes; but the measure advocated by him was necessary in order to retain the Brahmin community in its present position. He therefore commended the proposal for the anxious and serious consideration of the Government and requested that something might be done for maintaining and improving national efficiency.

Dewan's reply.—The Director of Public Instruction will be asked to report on the subject. The Division Peishkars will also be asked to consult the people affected and report what their sentiments are.

109. The need for making Vernacular Primary Education compulsory throughout the State, and for teaching Commercial subjects in the Secondary Schools.

Mr. T. V. Krishna Iyer (Member, Trading Classes, Nagercoil) said that the adverse remarks made by the Member from Agastiswaram had formed the subject of conversation among the other Members of the Assembly, and they were all agreed in the view that the remarks were quite uncalled for and unjust. The constituents in each taluk sent their representatives to the Assembly only to submit their grievances and requests, and if any Member transgressed those limits and said anything beyond, that should be regarded as his own personal opinion.

Proceeding to his subject, the Member stated that at present vernacular primary education in Classes I to IV was free; but he said it should be more *compulsory* also. The necessity for, and the advantages accruing from, declaring primary education compulsory had been ably laid before the Government by such eminent men as Messrs. K. G. Sesha Iyer and C. Krishna Pillai, and a Bill for the purpose had also been introduced into the Legislative Council by Mr. P. K. Kesava Pillai. It was not necessary to make primary education compulsory throughout the State all at once; but the measure might be tried in two or three taluks at a time and gradually extended to the others. He requested that the matter might receive early attention.

He next requested that facilities should be afforded for teaching Commercial subjects as optional from Class IV in the Sirkar Elementary Schools. No doubt the Code made mention of those subjects, but the provision was not given practical effect. He mentioned how, in other countries, special Commercial Schools and Colleges had been started in view of the importance of the subjects in relation to trade and commerce. He requested therefore that action should be taken to insist on the subjects being taught from Class IV as optional.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

110. The necessity for establishing hostels for all the Departmental Higher Grade Secondary Schools in the State.

Mr. P. K. Koshi (Member, T. I. C., Mavelikara) said that the educational care of the State did not stop with ministering to the intellect. An atmosphere of good morals and healthy physical surroundings were recognised as indispensable for the development of the intellect itself along proper lines, and their effect on the individuals in making them the right sort of citizens was also recognised. It was from that stand-point that hostels or boarding-houses were attached to educational institutions in all civilized countries. He added that the University insisted upon the residence of all college students in hostels attached to colleges or in places approved of by the local college authorities, and that the compulsion was, in spite of the slight increase in the cost of living of individual students, found to produce good results. The Member next pointed out that 45 per cent of the pupils in the two Higher Grade Secondary Schools at Mavelikara were outsiders, and that, in the bigger towns, the proportion of outsiders would be greater. They generally messed in hotels where unwholesome food was served, and they lived in dingy unhealthy sheds. They were also left to take care

of themselves without anybody to look after them. In conclusion, the Member said that the only way of remedying such evils would be by attaching a hostel to every Higher Grade Secondary School and thus affording an opportunity to pupils in the higher Forms to live and study under desirable surroundings. There were only 8 or 9 such schools and the initial organisation was all that was wanted. The hostels, once they were started, could be run on self-supporting lines. In the case of Private Schools, moral compulsion from the Government, supplemented by some help wherever necessary, would be the best means of starting hostels in them. If necessary, it should be even made a condition of recognition of the schools. He requested that a move might be made in the direction indicated and all the hostels required gradually brought into existence.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

111. The need for improving the method of selecting Text-books.

Mr. Kanakku Narayanan Kesavan (Member, Kottayam taluk) said that of late a strong public opinion was gaining ground that the selection of text-books by the Text-book Committee was far from satisfactory, more especially in regard to the Vernacular text-books, and that the books selected were unfit for use as text-books in the classes for which they were intended. That was partly due to the paucity, in the Sub-Committees, of men of superior erudition and of impartial mind. The Members of the Text-book Committee were now solely selected from the Education Department, unlike the Board of Studies of the Madras University. The Member suggested that learned and proficient men in the service outside the Education Department should also be Members of the Text-book Committee.

He next pointed out that, in the selection of text-books, the Members were sometimes swayed by personal considerations for the authors of the books. Considerations of the pecuniary advantage of a few select writers, who got round the Members, should not be allowed to weigh in the selection of text-books, as the sufferers by such indiscriminate selection were the poor boys. To obviate the evil, the Member suggested that—

(1) The names of all books from which a selection was to be made should be published in the Gazette sufficiently early, for the information of the public;

(2) The Committee should invariably record the reasons for approving or rejecting any text-book; and

(3) The Committee should record the reasons for selecting the books of a particular author in preference to others.

Dewan's reply.—The representations of the Member will be communicated to the Director of Public Instruction.

112. The necessity for an investigation into the cause of the poor health of the School-going population in the State.

Mr. T. N. Atchutha Panicker (Member, Parur taluk) said that the health of the school-going population was far from satisfactory. It was partly due to the fact that the school-children had to walk 4 or 5 miles every morning to school, and also cover the same distance in the evening, owing to the extinction of the large number of village and grand-in-aid schools that had existed before. It was also due to the fact that a good number of the boys and girls had to remain in school without any food in the noon. The reason for that was not the poverty of the parents, but the situation of the schools in places far distant from their houses. Further, boys in the higher classes often came to the towns for their studies, and for want of proper hostels, they had to mess in some unclean hotel or club-house, much to the prejudice of their health, and, what was more, of their character. The Member had intended to propose the appointment of a Committee to enquire into and report on the whole